also been accommodated in Government buildings & tented accommodation, and are being provided all civic amenities.

Delay in approval of applications for opening of Liaison Offices of arms supplies

2848. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many applications referred to Defence Ministry by Reserve Bank of India for giving permission to open Liaison Offices for arms supplies are pending with the Ministry for a long time;

(b) if so, what is the reason for the delay in disposal of applications;

(c) how many such cases are pending; and

(d) what is the time frame by which they will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) do not refer applications for opening liaison offices to the Ministry of Defence. RBI make references for this purpose to the Ministry of Finance. It is the Ministry of Finance that obtain views/comments of the Ministry of Defence and conveys to RBI. In the Ministry of Defence only one such reference is pending. The views of the Ministry of Defence in respect of this reference will be forwarded to the Ministry of Finance shortly.

Increase of personnel in Army, Navy and Air Force

2849. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the officer and personnel strength of the Armed Forces and proposed appointment over 400 new Generals; and

(b) if so, the details of the existing and the proposed increase in strength of officers and men in each wing, Army, Air force and Navy indicating the reasons for such increase?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.